

## *Neva Ralphs and Ernest Jensen QR History*

*(Neva is portrayed by Nellie in the production)*

Ernest Eugene Jensen was born in Castle Dale, Utah, on October 30, 1890. His education included the eighth grades offered by local schools, followed by a year at the Emery Stake Academy. Afterward, he took a job at Paradise Ranch near Ferron. Dancing, house parties, skating, sleigh riding, and horseback riding were popular pastimes at the time. While working at the ranch, he traveled to Ferron on weekends, where he boarded his horse and stayed with the Hannah Ralphs family, who had six sons and two young daughters.

He loved to dance and supported the dances throughout the county. He was mindful of the widows and young girls at the dances and would use his personal privilege to ensure that each of them danced.

He was called to serve the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a missionary in Denmark. At the time, there was little preparation for a missionary, so with a strong, fervent testimony, a valise containing a few clothes, and his scriptures, he said goodbye to his family and left for his homeland.



He left Salt Lake City on October 20, 1913, and spent several weeks traveling by boat to Denmark. After serving among the Danish-speaking people for about a year, just as he was beginning to feel comfortable with the language, the church called all the missionaries back to the United States due to World War I. He completed his mission by serving in the Albany, New York Mission. While serving, Ernest wrote to a young lady he had dated before leaving for his mission. He returned to Castle Dale and soon began courting Neva Beata Ralphs.

Neva Beata Ralphs was born in Ferron, Utah, on February 21, 1896. She completed eight grades of school in Ferron, then attended the Emery Stake Academy in Castle Dale for two years and Westminster College in Salt Lake City for one year, where she worked for her room and board.

My widowed mother, Hannah Ralphs, took our family to Castle Dale to attend Emery Stake Academy. We lived in the Incubator Apartments. Ernest Jensen used to visit my brother Elwin, and I thought he was really nice. He teased me by saying he was going to marry me.

Shortly after school began, I went to town one day at noon and met Ernest. He invited me to his home for dinner with his family. He mentioned that he was preparing to go on a mission to Denmark and would leave in a few days. I felt shy around his family.

Ernest asked me out on a date that night. He arrived, and we went buggy riding. The next night, we had another date, and on the third night, he was leaving for his mission. That morning, I went to the privy, or toilet; it was located out in the lot under the trees. As I was leaving the toilet, I saw Ernest at our door, so I went back inside and stayed until he left. I didn't want him to see me coming from the toilet. When I arrived at school, his brother told me they

had left that morning because it was cloudy, and the road would be bad if it stormed. So, they went to Price in a buggy and then took the train to Salt Lake City. I felt heartbroken that I hadn't gotten to say goodbye to him. I knew then that he was the one I was going to marry.

After I finished my first year at Westminster College, I went to Altona to help my brother Will and his family. Every Friday night, there was a dance in one of the small towns, and I played the organ in the orchestra. For fun, I would ride a horse from Will's farm to town to join the young folks at the parties and dances. I stayed with them until late summer.

I returned to Ferron to assist my brother and his wife at the telephone office. I listened in when Ernest called his family to let them know he was in Price on his way home from his mission. Then, a call came in for Neva Ralphs. I said, "Just a minute, please." I needed a moment to compose myself; I was so excited.

He wanted to come see me that night, so I hurried home with the good news: I needed to tidy up the house and bake a cake. I watched the road until I spotted him in his black-top buggy, pulled by a single horse, coming down Meeting House Hill. My heart was racing. When I saw him, I realized I was in love with him.

Our courtship lasted from October to April 1916. We left Castle Dale at midnight and drove by horse and buggy to Price, where we took the train to Salt Lake. We were married in the Salt Lake City Temple on April 5, 1916, by Joseph Fielding Smith.

Ernest Eugene Jensen (1890-1945) died on July 7, 1945, at the age of 54 due to complications from injuries sustained when the horse he was riding fell and broke his back.

Neva Beata Ralphs (1896-1968) died on April 7, 1968, at 92. Both Neva and Ernest are buried in the Castle Dale City Cemetery.